

A NEW SOCIAL FAD.

The Park Roque Club's Blue Ribbon Games and Some New Features.—Picture of Colored Authors.

A series of games to determine the blue and red ribbon players of the club for the season of 1903, will be inaugurated on the Park Roque Club's new courts, located on Sixth street, N. W., near Trumbull street, Monday evening September 14, the courts being lighted for night play. Eight roque enthusiasts, Messrs. W. A. Joiner, Robert Pelham, Jr., Jas. L. Neill, Furman J. Shadd, Jr., Charles S. Syphax, and Arthur S. Gray, and Drs. W. H. Conner and H. C. Scurlock, from the membership of the club, and under the management of Mr. Pullham, have about completed the construction of two new and up-to-date courts at the above mentioned location, and invite their many friends to join them in "opening" the new grounds Monday evening Sept., 14, from 6 to 11 p. m. The outing for the evening will consist of only one game on each court, as the club will request their guests to be contestants in an interesting literary game during the evening. The Blue ribbon games, however, will continue during the month from 6 to 10 p. m., and guests are always welcome, the club grounds being a favorite resort for an evening's outing.

Roque is a game which has been gradually evolved from the old lawn game croquet, from whence it gets its name, c-roque-t, and this evolution will be shown by an exhibit of the paraphernalia of the club at different stages of its existence. The game is played on a bare clay or dirt court, as near to a perfect level as can be made. The surface is rolled down as compact as possible, after which it is lightly sanded. The dimensions of a regulation court are 72 feet in length by 36 feet in width. The angles of the border are cut off by eight-foot corner pieces, otherwise the ground would be the counterpart of a billiard table of heroic proportions. From these borders carom shots are readily made and with remarkable accuracy by the more skillful players. The arches are made of the finest steel procurable and are but one eighth of an inch wider than the balls. They are first set in heavy wooden blocks and are afterwards buried in the ground in their proper positions.

The balls, which are 3 1-4 inches in diameter, are made of vulcanized rubber and are more resilient than the old wooden ones and preserve their shape better. The mallets are made to suit the individual player's taste, but the average dimensions are about as follows: Length of head, 7 inches;

length of handle, 19 inches; diameter of face, 2 inches; weight, from 2 to 2 1-2 pounds. The price varies from \$5 to \$20.

Only two contestants participate in a game, each using two balls which must be played alternately, both being required to make a complete circuit of the grounds before either can go out. The points which go to make a successful player are ability to hit the ball accurately whenever opportunity offers; "wiring," or "tying up" the "danger," or next playing ball of the opponent so that he will find it difficult to make a point when his turn of play comes, and ability to "block" or "drive" a ball to a desired position when striking it with your own ball. Generalship is one of the most important features of the game, as the proper planning of the plays is fully as necessary as the ability to hit balls in the open, or to "make" scores.

RACE GLEANINGS.

D. B. McCary, formerly of this city, is now settled with his family, at Omaha, Neb.

Hon. J. N. Leger, the Haytian Minister to this country, has written an article to a recent number of the North American Review, demolishing the argument and deductions of the now famous Rickens concerning Hayti.

The Outlook, one of the fairest white magazines, has made mincemeat out of one Gordon McDonald, a white lawyer, of Montgomery, Ala., who reflected upon the industry of Tuskegee's graduates, in the Washington Post.

Messrs. Cosey, Barrett and Churchman, the New Jersey delegation to the Afro-American Council, had a rousing reception at Newark, upon their return from Louisville, Ky.

The Negro race lost a warm friend in the death, not long since, of Gen. Cassius M. Clay. He was an abolitionist long before the war, though a Kentucky aristocrat.

Billy Kersands, once widely known on the Minstrel stage, is about to blossom into a vaudeville manager himself, and tour the country.

Major Franklin A. Dernison, of Chicago, a lawyer and Spanish war veteran, has been appointed Major and Quartermaster on the staff of the 3rd Brigade, Illinois National Guard.

Down in Brenham, Texas, a colored lady, Mrs. Ellen Nelson, drove a would-be white masher from her home at the point of a pistol, and the Chief of Police said "Good—do it again if necessary." Score one for the Chief.

It is said that editor Asbury, of the Philadelphia Odd Fellows Journal, is to head the exodus of our people to the Philippine Islands.

Samuel Eagleson, of Marshall, Mo., has a collection of rare coins valued at \$10,000, and knows the history and commercial value of each. He is our only colored numismatician.

J. W. Adams has twenty-five thousand dollars invested in the dry goods business, at Montgomery, Ala.

The story of the skinning of a Negro, in West Virginia, is now denied.

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